276 435 It is expensive Aden and it has been calculated that Qāt costs the addicts in the Colony £2,500,000 a year.

276 434 The Unofficial Members were not concerned primarily with the effect of the drug on the constitutions of the addicts, but with the economic aspect of the problem. The majority of those who use Qāt are in the lower wage brackets and cannot really afford to buy Qāt without seriously neglecting their 648 family responsibilities. After much careful thought the Asiatic 671 Unofficial Members tabled a motion in the Legislative Council at the beginning of 1957 calling on the Aden Government to take action to prohibit the entry of Qāt into the Colony. The motion was not opposed and in due course action was taken • 548 and Qāt was prohibited. However, the Aden Government has 648 no control over the States of the Protectorate and the Sultan of Lahej, through whose territory Qāt from the Yemen and from Dhala must pass to reach the Colony, was unwilling to co-operate with the Aden Authorities. Not only did he place no restriction on the movement of Yemen and Dhala Qāt through his territory but he allowed Qāt from Ethiopia, brought by launch and sailing craft from Djibouti in French Somaliland to which place it had been flown from Ethiopia, to be landed on his coast and taken to Dar Saad on the Colony boundary and other places in his territory. The immediate consequence of the Sultan's action was to turn the village of Dar Saad into one vast Qāt chewing den to which resorted all the citizens of Aden who used the stuff and could afford the transport. Why the Sultan did this dis-service to the Colony is hard to say. He may have been unwilling to annoy the Yemen Government, fearing retaliation along his frontier with that country, or he may have thought that action by him to prohibit Qāt from passing through his territory would result in the Imam closing the frontier, as he has done on more than one occasion in the past, with a consequent loss of revenue to the State from road tolls. On the other hand, he may have felt that the order of prohibition was an unjustified infringement of the liberty of the subject to which he could not subscribe, and was not prepared therefore to do anything to interrupt the supply from any source. Whatever were his reasons the result

[1] [i.e., Qāt. - Ed.]

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of his refusal to co-operate was to make nonsense of the Aden Government prohibition order.

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Four months after the ban was imposed some of the Asiatic Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council had second thoughts and introduced a Motion in the Council to set up a Commission to inquire into the effectiveness of the ban and make a recommendation whether or not it should continue in force. The Commission was duly appointed and has recently produced its recommendations after hearing and receiving evidence from all conditions of people. They have recommended that the prohibition order be rescinded. Personally I regret their decision. I would have preferred to see the ban remain in force with some provision for the supply of limited and diminishing quantities of Qât to confirmed addicts whose health would be adversely affected by total deprivation. I am sure that the Commission considered this solution but there were probably practical difficulties.

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In May of this year following on two bomb-throwing incidents in which twelve people were injured in one of the main centres of population in the Colony, the Governor declared a state of emergency. The purpose of the Governor's proclamation was to provide the police with additional powers under emergency regulations to prevent such acts of violence and to protect the lives and property of the public. Since the declaration of a state of emergency there have been several further incidents; mostly of no consequence, but one, an attempt, fortunately unsuccessful, to blow up the oil pipe-line connecting the Refinery at Burnikha with the bunkering installation at Steamer Point, was more serious. This is indeed a sorry state of affairs and the firm action of the Authorities is more than justified. It is to be hoped that they will have the full co-operation of the public in their efforts to prevent further outrages and to bring the perpetrators of those that have taken place to justice. I have no doubt that the inspiration for these crimes came from outside the Colony and, indeed, outside the Protectorate, though the tools may have been found nearer at hand. I am convinced that this is the work of hired assassins and I should be very surprised to learn that any